

THE
VOICE of GOD
IN HIS
PROMISES.



T H E
VOICE of GOD
I N H I S
P R O M I S E S;
O R,
STRONG CONSOLATION
F O R
TRUE CHRISTIANS;
B E I N G
THE SUBSTANCE AND SPIRIT OF
THE COVENANT OF GRACE.

Extracted from the Writings of
Rev. Mr. JOSEPH ALLEINE,
Late Minister of the Gospel at Taunton, in Somersfethshire.

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THE
VOICE OF GOD

PROMISES

STRONG CORRELATION



TRUE

THE SUBSTANCE AND SPIRIT OF
THE COVENANT OF GRACE

By Mr. JOSEPH ALLEN
Pastor of the Gospel Church, New York

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MEMOIRS of the LIFE

O F T H E

Rev. Mr. Joseph Alleine,

Extracted from the larger Account
printed in 1677.

IN the year 1633, Mr. *Joseph Alleine* was born at the *Devizes*, in *Wiltshire*: he was the son of a godly father, Mr. *Tobias Alleine*, a signally humble and experienced christian, who died suddenly, but sweetly, not above a year or two before his excellent son.

This our author appeared to have a very serious sense of religion at eleven years of age, he earnestly desired to be brought up in preparation for the work of the ministry, which good motion his father gladly hearkened to, and
speedily

speedily prepared to put in execution. Such was his great diligence at school, that he redeemed for his book the time allotted for recreation. In the space of about four years he attained to very good knowledge in the *Latin* and *Greek* tongues, and was by his school-master judged fit for university studies; after which he abode some time with his father in the country, where a worthy minister of the *Devizes* read logic to him; and when he was about sixteen years old, he was placed at *Lincoln* college, in *Oxford*, in 1649 or 1650.

He had not been long in the university before a *Wiltshire* place becoming vacant in *Corpus Christi* college, he was chosen scholar of that house, the pregnancy of his parts assuring all that his own merits were the sole friends, the only *mandamus*, which brought him in. Being entered and settled, he gave both early and constant proofs of his indefatigable industry: he well understood how base and contemptible it was to live in a school of learning, no otherwise than as if it was a sanctuary for laziness, or a place privileged with nothing else but leave and opportunity to eat the founders bread; and with no other sweat of the brow than what is provoked or excited in a tennis-court.

He

He studied at *Oxford* five years, and in the year 1655, about the twenty-first year of his age, he left the college, and became assistant preacher to the Rev. Mr. *George Newton*, at *Taunton*, in *Somersetshire*.

Mr. *Newton* writes thus of him, in the memoirs of his life. "I soon observed him to be a young man of singular accomplishments, natural and acquired. His intellectual powers solid, his memory strong, his affections lively, his learning much beyond the ordinary size; and above all his holiness eminent, his conversation exemplary. In brief, he had a good head, and a better heart."

How he spent his time in public and private, and with what indefatigable zeal he served our Lord *Jesus Christ* in the ministry, may be seen at large in the account of his life and death, drawn up by his friends, 12mo. 1677, which I hope to see reprinted, with his excellent letters, written in prison, to his beloved friends and flock at *Taunton*.

In the year 1662, before the black Bartholomew day came, he would often say, "If it pleased the Lord to grant him three months liberty before he went to prison, he should account himself favoured by him, and would with more chearfulness go when he had done some work."

It

It pleased the Lord to indulge him, that he went on in his work from Bartholomew day, till May 26, 1663. The account of his imprisonment, see in that part of his life written by his wife, Mrs. *Theodosia Alleine* (daughter of the Rev. Mr. *Richard Alleine*) chap. vi. p. 62—72.

In *Ilchester* jail, *Somersetshire*, he wrote his most spiritual and animating letters to his people, which are printed at the end of his life.

In the same prison he wrote his excellent little book, intitled, *A Call to Archippus*, to excite ministers to zeal, diligence and courage in their master's work: I wish it was reprinted.

In prison he wrote his *Exposition of the Assembly's Shorter Catechism*, which was printed with rules for daily examination.

But, above all, in that jail he wrote this glorious *Synopsis of the Covenant of Grace*, or, *The Voice of the Lord in his Promises*, to which he prefixed the *Voice of the Herald*, and to which he subjoined the *Voice of the Redeemed*; all which you have now in your hands.

He also added a most rich and copious meditation, intitled, *A Soliloquy, representing the Believer's Triumph in God's Covenant, and the various Conflicts and glorious Conquests of Faith over Unbelief*. This is lately reprinted in a pamphlet, price 6d.

These

These precious and most comfortable pieces were sent from jail to his beloved flock at *Taunton*, and were both printed in the year 1666, and inserted in a book written by his father-in-law, Mr. *Richard Alleine*, entitled, *Heaven opened; or, A brief and plain Discovery of the Riches of God's Covenant of Grace, being the Third Part of Vindiciæ Pietatis, by R. A. London, Printed Anno 1666.*

From this book a worthy and pious lady transcribed that part stiled, *The Voice of the Lord in his Promises*, and by her friendly permission I have reprinted it. Since the papers have been in the press, and part printed off, the original book has providentially fallen into my hands; and I have been the more exact in giving the title, to the end that serious Christians may enquire after it. Whoever reads the whole will have no reason to repent of his labour; it is a book full of the best riches.

Our dear and excellent Mr. *Joseph Alleine* died at *Bath*, on *Saturday, November* the 7th, at six o'clock in the evening, 1668, in the 35th year of his age.

His *Alarm to the Unconverted*, is known through all the three kingdoms, and will be read whilst there is a living Christian in the *British* nation.

The primary design of reprinting this part of his excellent works, is to advance the glory of the rich and abundant grace of God, through the blood and righteousness of our *Lord Jesus Christ*, and to promote the holiness and comfort of the people of God, to whom I am more immediately related, and whose eternal interests I have deeply and powerfully at heart.

NORTHAMPTON,
Nov. 25, 1766.

JOHN RYLAND.

THE

T H E
VOICE OF THE HERALD,
TO COMMAND
SILENCE AND ATTENTION
TO THE
V O I C E OF G O D.

O! all ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth; come see, and hear; gather yourselves together unto the proclamation of the great king. Hear, you that are far off, and you that are near: he that hath an ear to hear, let him hear; I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord. Let every valley be exalted, and every mountain be made low, for the glory of the Lord is to be revealed. Go thorough, go thorough the gates, prepare the way: cast up,

cast up the highway; gather out the stones, lift up the standard for the people, for the Lord proclaimeth salvation to the ends of the earth; tidings, tidings, O ye captives, hear all ye that look for salvation in Israel; behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy which shall be unto all people. Blessed news! Prepare your ears and hearts; the Lord hath commanded me, saying, go unto the people, and sanctify them, let them wash and be ready, for the Lord is coming down upon mount Sion, in the sight of all the nations, not in earthquakes and fire, not in clouds and darkness, not in thundrings and burnings, rending the mountains, and breaking the rocks in pieces: he speaks not to you out of the blackness, and darkness, and tempest; you shall say no more, let not God speak to us, lest we die; he cometh peaceably, the law of kindness is in his mouth, he preacheth peace, peace, to him that is afar off, and to him that is near.

Behold how he cometh, leaping upon the mountains, he hath passed mount *Ebal*, no more wrath or cursing; he is come to mount *Gerizim*, where he standeth to bless the people; as *Mordecai* to his nation, he writeth the words of truth and peace, seeking the welfare of

of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed.

Behold how he cometh, cloathed with flames of love, with bowels of compassion, plenteous redemption, and multiplied pardons. O how pregnant is his love! O the rollings of his bowels! O how full are his breasts, even aching till they are eased by the sucking of his hungry children! Hearken therefore, O ye children, hearken to me. To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, that at what time you hear the joyful sound, the trump of *jubilee*, the tydings of peace in the voice of the everlasting gospel, that you fall down before the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever.

Arise, and come away; prepare, prepare you; hear not with an uncircumcised ear; you are not upon a common thing. Behold the throne is set, the throne of grace, where majesty and mercy dwell together: from thence will the Lord meet you, from thence will he commune with you, from the mercy seat, from between the cherubims, upon the ark of the testimony. Lo! the Lord cometh out of his pavilion, the mighty God from *Sion*, *Selab*. His glory covereth the heavens, the earth is full of his praise. A fire (of love) goeth before

fore him, mercy and truth are round about him, righteousness and peace are the habitation of his throne; he rideth on his horses and chariots of salvation, the covenant of life, and peace is in his mouth.

Rejoice ye heavens, make a joyful noise to the Lord of all the earth. Let the sea roar, the floods clap their hands, and the multitudes of the isles rejoice. Stand forth the host of heaven, prepare your harps, cast down your crowns, be ready with your trumpets, bring forth your golden vials full of odours, for our voices will jar, our strings will break, we cannot reach the note of our maker's praise.

Yet let them that dwell in the dust arise and sing. Bear your part in this glorious service, but consider and attend. Call out your souls and all that is within you. Lift up your voices, fix your eyes, enlarge your hearts, exert all their powers; there is work for them all. Be intent and serious, you cannot strain too high. Come forth ye graces, beset the way, be all in readiness. Stand forth faith and hope; flame O love, come ye warm desires, and break with longing: let fear, with all veneration do its obeysance. Joy prepare thy songs, call up all the daughters of music, to salute the Lord as he passeth by. Let the generations of
the

the saints appear, and spread the way with boughs and garments of salvation, and songs of deliverance, *Deut. xxix. 10.* to the 13th.

“ Ye stand this day all of you before the Lord
 “ your God, your captains, your elders, your
 “ officers, with all the men of Israel, your
 “ little ones, your wives, and the stranger that
 “ is within thy camp, from the hewer of wood,
 “ to the drawer of water : that thou shouldest
 “ enter into covenant with the Lord thy God,
 “ and into his oath, which the Lord thy God
 “ maketh with thee this day : that he may
 “ establish thee to day for a people unto him-
 “ self, and that he may be unto thee a God,
 “ as he hath said unto thee, and as he hath
 “ sworn.”

I have done my errand. The messenger of the morning disappeareth, when the orient sun cometh forth out of his chambers, I vanish. I put my mouth in the dust. The voice of the Lord ! The soft and still voice ! O my soul, wrap thy face in the mantle, and bow thyself to the ground, and put thee in the cleft of the rock, while Jehovah proclaimeth his name, and maketh all his goodness to pass before thee.

T H E

THE
VOICE OF THE LORD
IN THE
PROMISES, &c.

HEAR, O ye ends of the earth, the mighty God, the Lord hath spoken: Gather my saints unto me, those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. Behold I establish my covenant between me, and you. By my holiness have I sworn, that I will be your covenant-friend. I lift up my hand to heaven, I swear I live for ever; and because I live, you shall live also. I will be yours: yours to all intents and purposes; your refuge and your rest; your patron and your portion; your heritage and your hope; your God and your guide. While *I have, you shall never want*; and what *I am to myself, I will be to you*. And you shall be my people, a chosen
B generation,

generation, a kingdom of priests, an holy nation, a peculiar treasure unto me above all people. I call heaven and earth to witness this day, that *I take you for mine for ever*. My name shall be upon you, and you shall be pillars in the temple of your God, and shall go no more out.

My livery shall you wear, and the stamp of my own face shall you carry; and I will make you my witness and the epistles of Christ unto the world, and you shall be chosen vessels, to bear my name before the sons of men. And that you *may see that I am in earnest with you*, lo, I make with you an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure; and do here solemnly deliver it to you *as my act and deed*, sealed with sacred blood, and ratified with the oath of a God; a God that cannot lie, that knows no place for repentance. Come, ye blessed, receive the instruments of your salvation: *take the writings, behold the seals*; here are the conveyances of the kingdom. Fear not, the donation is free and full. See it is written in blood, founded on the all-sufficient merits of your surety, in whom I am well pleased, whose death makes this testament unchangeable for ever; so that your names can never be put out, nor your inheritance alienated,

alienated, nor your legacies diminished; *nothing may be altered, nothing added, nothing subtracted, no, not for ever.* Happy art thou, O Israel! Who is like unto thee, O people! Only believe, and know your own blessedness. Attend, O my children, unto the blessings of your father, and hear, and know the glorious immunities, and the royal prerogatives that I here confirm upon you.

Here I seal you your pardon. Though your sins be as many as the sands, and as mighty as the mountains, I will drown them in the *deeps of my bottomless mercies.* I will be merciful to your unrighteousness; I will multiply to pardon; where your sins have abounded, my grace shall super-abound; though they be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though red like crimson, they shall be as wool. Behold I declare *myself satisfied*, and pronounce you absolved: the price is paid, your debts are cleared, your bonds are cancelled.

Whatever the law, or conscience, or the accuser, hath to charge upon you; here I *exonerate you*, I discharge you. I, even I am he, that blotteth out your transgressions, for my name's sake. Who shall lay any thing to your charge, when I acquit you? Who shall

impeach or implead you, when I proclaim you guiltless? Sons, daughters, be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven you. I will sprinkle your consciences, and put the voice of peace into their mouths, and they shall be your registers, in which *I will record your pardon*, and the voice of guilt, and wrath, and terror shall cease.

Here *I sign your release* from the house of bondage. Come forth ye captives, come forth ye prisoners of hope, for I have found a ransom: I proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound. Behold I have broken your bonds, and shook the *foundations of your prisons*, and opened the iron gates; by the blood of the covenant have I sent forth the prisoners out of the pit wherein there is no water. Arise, O redeemed of the Lord, put off the raiment of your captivities, arise and come away.

The dark and noisome prison of sin shall no longer detain you. I will loose your fetters, and knock off your bolts. Sin shall not have dominion over you.

I will heal your back-slidings, I will subdue your iniquities, I will sanctify you wholly, and will put my fear in your hearts, that you shall not depart from me. Though your
corruptions

corruptions be strong and many, yet the *aids of my spirit*, and cleansing *virtue* of my word, and *physic* of my corrections shall so work together with your prayers and endeavours, as that they shall not finally prevail against you, but shall surely fall before you. From the strong and stinking jail of the grave do I deliver you; O death, I will be thy plague, O grave, I will be thy destruction; my beloved shall not ever see corruption.

I will change your rottenness into glory and make your dust arise and praise me. What is sown in weakness, I will raise in power: what is sown in corruption, I will raise in incorruption: what is sown a natural body, I will raise a spiritual body. This very flesh of yours, this corruptible flesh, shall put on incorruption, and this mortal shall put on immortality. Death shall be swallowed up in victory, and mortality of life. Fear not, O my children; come, and I will show you the enemy that you dreaded; see, *here lies the king of terrors*, like Sisera in the tent, fastened to the ground, with the nail struck through his temples. Behold the grateful present, the head of your enemy in a charger. *I bequeath you your conquered adversary, and make over death as your legacy.* O death where is thy sting?

sting? where now is thine armour wherein thou trustedst? Come, my people, enter into your chambers; come to your bed of dust, and lay you down in peace, and let your flesh rest in hope, for even in this flesh shall you see God. O ye slain of death, your carcases, now as loathsome as the carrion in the ditch, will I redeem from the power of the grave, and fashion those vile bodies like unto the glorious body of your exalted redeemer *Look if you can on the sun*, when shining in his strength, with such *dazzling glory will I cloath you*, O ye of little faith.

From the terrible dungeon of eternal darkness do I hereby free you: fear not, you shall not be hurt of the second death; you are delivered from the wrath to come, and shall never come into condemnation; the flames of Tophet shall not be able to singe the *hairs of your head*, no, nor the smell of the fire pass upon you: *stand upon the brink*, and look down into the horrible pit, the infernal prison, from whence I have freed you; see you how the smoke of their torments ascendeth for ever; hear you the *curfings and ravings*, the *roarings* and blasphemies? What think you of those hellish fiends? Would you have been willing to have had them for your companions

companions and tormentors? What think you of those chains of darkness, of the river of brimstone, of the instruments of torment for soul and body, of those weepings and wailings, and gnashing of teeth? Can you think of an everlasting banishment, of a go, ye cursed? Could you dwell with everlasting, could you abide with devouring fire? This is the *inheritance you were born to*, but I *have cut off the entail*, and wrought for you a great salvation; I have not ordained you to wrath, but my thoughts towards you are thoughts of peace.

Here I deliver you your protection, from all your enemies will I save you. I grant you a protection from the arrests of the law; your surety hath fully answered it; my justice is satisfied, my wrath is pacified, my honour is repaired. Behold, I am near that justify you, who is he that shall condemn you.

From the usurped dominion of the powers of darkness, I will *tread Satan shortly under you*, and will set your feet in triumph on the necks of your enemies. Let not your hearts be troubled, though you be to wrestle with principalities and powers, and the rulers of the darkness of this world; for stronger is he that is in you, than he that is in the world; he may bruise your heel, but you shall bruise his head.

head. Behold your Redeemer leading captivity captive, spoiling principalities and powers, and triumphing over them openly in his cross. See how Satan falleth like lightning from heaven, and the *Sampson of your salvation beareth away the gates of hell, posts, and all, upon his shoulders*, and setteth them up as trophies of his victory: how he *pulleth out the throat of the lion*, and lifteth up the *heart of the traitor upon the top of his spear*, and *washeth his hands*, and *dyeth his robes in the blood* of those your enemies!

From the victory of the world, neither its frowns, nor its flatteries, shall be too hard for your *victorious faith*; though it raise up Egypt, Amalek, and Moab, and all its whole militia against you, yet it shall never *keep you out of Canaan*. Be of good comfort, your Lord hath overcome the world; though its temptations be very powerful, yet *this upon my faithfulness* will I promise you, that no such shall come upon you, but what you shall be able to bear: *but if I see such trials* (which you fear) would be *too hard* for your graces, and overthrow your souls, I will *never suffer* them to come upon you; nay, I will *make your enemy to serve you*, and do bequeath the world as part of your dowry to you.

From

From the curse of the cross affliction shall prove a wholesome cup to you ; your Lord hath *drunk the venom into* his own body, and what remains for you is but a healthful potion, which I will promise you shall work for good. Be not afraid to drink, nor desire the cup should pass from you : *I bless the cup before I give it unto you.* Drink you all of it and be thankful ; you shall find my blessing at the bottom of the cup, to sweeten the sharpest afflictions to you. I will stand by *you in all conditions*, and be a fast friend to *you in every change*, In the wilderness I will speak comfortably to you, and in the fire, and in the water, I will be with you. I will be a strength to the poor, and a strength to the needy in his distress ; a refuge from the storm, and a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall. Your sufferings shall not be a cup of wrath, but a *grace-cup* ; *not a curse*, but a cure ; not a cup of trembling, but a cup of blessing to you ; they shall not hurt you, but heal you. My blessing shall attend you in every condition ; I say, not only blessed shall you be in your basket, and blessed in your store, but blessed shall you be in your poverty, and blessed shall you be in your streights : not only blessed shall you be in your cities, and blessed shall you be in your fields, but

bleſſed ſhall you be in your *bonds*, and bleſſed ſhall you be in your *banifſment*; bleſſed ſhall you be when you are perſecuted, and when you are reviled, and your name is caſt out as evil; yea, then doubly bleſſed. My choiceſt bleſſings, greateſt good, and richeſt ſweets will I put into your evil things. Theſe happy immunities, theſe glorious liberties of the Sons of God, by this *immutable charter* do I for ever ſettle upon you; and do in and with my covenant, unalterably, *irrevocably*, and everlaſtingly convey unto you, and confirm upon you. Yea, I will not only free you from your miſeries, but will confer upon you *royal privileges* and prerogatives; and inſtate you into higher and greater happineſs than ever you have fallen from. Lo, I give myſelf unto you and all things with myſelf.

Behold, O ye ſons of men! behold and wonder, be aſtoniſhed, O heavens! *Be moved ye ſtrong foundations* of the earth, for you ſhall be my witneſſes. This day do I by covenant *beſtow myſelf* upon my ſervants. I will be your God for ever and ever; your *own* God: nothing in the world is ſo *much your own* as I: the houſes that you have built, that you have bought, are not ſo much yours as I am: here you are *tenants at will*; but I am your eternal inheritance: theſe are
loans

loans for a season; but I am your dwelling-place in all generations. You have no where *so great a propriety, so sure and unalterable claim as you have here*. What do you count your own? Do you count your bodies your own, your souls your own? Nay, these are not your own, they are bought with a price; but you may boldly make your claim *to me*; you may freely challenge an interest in me. Come near and fear not; where should *you be free, if not with your own*? Where should *you be bold, if not at home*? You are never in all the world so much at home, as when you are with me. You may freely make use of me, or of any of my attributes, whenever you have need: I will be all to you that you can wish: I will be a friend to you; my *secrets* shall be with you, and you shall have all *freedom* of access to me, and liberty to pour out *all your hearts* into my bosom. I will be a physician to you; I will heal your back-slidings, and cure all your diseases. Fear not, *never did soul miscarry* that left itself in my hands, and would but follow my prescriptions.

I will be a shepherd to you. Be not afraid of evil tidings, for I am with you, my rod and my staff shall comfort you: *you shall not want*, for I will feed you: *you shall not wander* (to be lost) for I will restore you. I will

cause you to lie down in green pastures, and lead you beside the still waters. I will gather you with mine arm, and carry you in my bosom, and will lead on softly, as the flock and the children be able to endure. If officers be careless, I will do the work myself: I will judge between cattle and cattle. I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and bind up that which was broken, and strengthen that which was sick; but I will destroy the fat and the strong, and will feed them with judgment. I will watch over my flock by night. Behold, I have appointed my ministers as your watchmen and overseers that watch for your souls: yea, mine angels shall be your watchers, and shall keep a constant guard upon my flock; and if peradventure the servant should sleep, mine *own* eyes shall keep a perpetual watch over you by night and by day. The keeper of Israel never slumbreth nor sleepeth, nor withdraweth his eyes from the righteous. I will guide you with mine eyes; I will never trust you out of mine own sight.

I will be a sovereign to you: the Lord is your judge, the Lord is your law-giver, the Lord is your king. Fear not the unrighteousness of men; I will judge your cause, I will defend

defend your right, you shall not stand at man's bar, you shall not be cast at their vote : let them *curse*, I will *blefs* ; let them condemn I will justify. When you come upon trial for your lives, to have your eternal state decided, you shall see your friend, your father, upon the bench ; into my hands shall your cause be cast, and you shall surely stand in judgment, and be found at the right hand among the sheep, and hear the king say, Come ye blessed inherit the kingdom.

I will be an husband to you : in loving-kindness, and in mercies, will I betroth you unto me for ever. I will espouse your interest, and will be *as one with you*, and *you with me* : you shall be for me and not for another, and I also will be for you. Though I found you an helpless infant, exposed in its blood, all your unworthiness doth not discourage me : lo, I have looked upon you, and, spread my skirt over you, and put my comeliness upon you : moreover I swear unto you, and enter into covenant with you, and you shall be mine. Behold I do, as it were, put *myself out of mine own power* ; and do here solemnly, in this my marriage covenant, make *away myself to you*, and with myself *all things*.

I will

I will be an everlasting portion to you : *lift up now your eyes eastward, and westward, and northward, and southward*, have you not a worthy portion, a goodly heritage? Can you cast up your riches, or count your own happiness? Can you fathom immensity, or reach omnipotency, or comprehend eternity? All this is yours; *I will set open all my treasures to you, I will keep back nothing from you*: all the attributes in the God-head, and all the persons in the God-head, I do hereby make over to you; I will be yours in all my *essential* *perfections*, and in all my personal relations.

IN ALL MINE ESSENTIAL PERFECTIONS.

Mine eternity shall be the date of your happiness. I am the eternal God, and while I am, I will be life and blessedness to you; I will be a never-failing fountain of joy and peace, and bliss to you. I am the first and last, that was, and is, and is to come, and *mine eternal power* and God-head shall be bound for, and to you.

I will be your God, *your Father, your friend, while I have any being.* I have made mine *everlasting choice* in pitching upon you. Fear not for the eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: my durable riches and righteousness shall be yours. Though all
should

should forsake you, yet *will not I forsake* you. When the world, and all that is therein, shall be *burnt up*, I will be a standing portion for you. When you are forgotten among the dead, with everlasting loving kindness will I remember you.

Mine *unchangeableness* shall be the rock of your rest. When all the world is like the tumbling ocean round about you, here you may fix and settle; I am your resting place.

The immutability of my nature, and of my counsel, and of my covenant, are *sure footing for your faith*, and a firm foundation for your strong and everlasting consolation. When you are afflicted, tossed with tempests, and not comforted, *put into me*; I am an haven of hope, I am an harbour of rest for you; here cast your anchors and you shall never be moved.

Mine *omnipotency* shall be your guard. I am God almighty, your almighty protector, your almighty benefactor. What though your enemies are many? more are they that are with you, than they that are against you; for I am with you. What though they are *mighty*? they are *not almighty*; your Father is greater than all, and none shall pluck you (*pluck while they will*) out of my hands. Who can hinder
my

my power, or obstruct my salvation? Who is like unto the God of Jeshurun, who rideth on the heaven for your help, and in his excellency on the sky. I am the sword of your strength, and the shield of your excellency. I am your rock and your fortress, your deliverer, your strength, the horn of your salvation, and your high tower. I will maintain you against all the power of the enemy. You shall *never sink if omnipotency can support you*: the gates of hell shall not prevail against you: your enemies shall find *hard work of it*: they shall *overcome victory*, or *enervate omnipotence*, or *corrupt fidelity*, or *change immutability*, or else they cannot finally prevail against you. Either they shall bow or break. Though they shall exalt themselves as the eagle, though they should set their *nest among the stars*, even there will I bring them down, saith the Lord.

My *faithfulness shall be your security*; my truth, yea, my *oath shall fail*, if ever you *come off losers by me*. I will make you to *confess*, when you see the issue and upshot of *all my providences*, that I was a God *worthy to be trusted*, worthy to be believed, worthy to be *rested in*, and *relied upon*. If you walk not in my judgments, you *must look for my threats and frowns*, yea, and *blows too*, and you shall see that

that *I am not in jest* with you, nor will indulge you in your sins; nevertheless my loving kindness will I never take from you, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail; my covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.

M E R C Y.

My mercies shall be your store. I am the father of mercies, and such a father will I be to you. I am the fountain of mercies, and this fountain shall be ever open to you. My mercies are *very many*, and they shall be multiplied towards you; *very great*, and they shall be magnified upon you; *very sure*, and they shall be for ever sure to you; *very tender*, and they shall be infinitely tender of you. Though the fig-tree do not blossom, nor the vine bear, nor the flock bring forth; fear not, for my compassions fail not, surely goodness and mercy shall follow you all the days of your lives. Even to your old age, I am he, and even to hoary hairs will I carry you; I have made, and I will bear, even I will carry and deliver you. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, that I will not turn away from you to *do you good*; I swear that I will shew you

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the kindness of God. I can as *soon forget to be God, as forget to be gracious*: while my name is Jehovah, merciful, gracious, long suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, I will never forget to shew mercy to you; all my ways towards you shall be mercy and truth. I have sworn that I will not be wroth with you, nor rebuke you; for the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed, but my kindness shall not depart from you, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on you.

OMNISCIENCE.

Mine *omniscience shall be your overseer*. Mine eyes shall be ever open, observing your *wants to relieve them, and your wrongs to avenge them*; mine ears shall be ever open to hear the prayers of my poor, the cry of mine oppressed, the clamours, calumnies, and reproaches of your enemies. Surely I have seen your affliction, and know your sorrows; and shall not God *avenge* his own elect? I will avenge them speedily. I see the *secret plots and designs of your enemies* against you, and will *disannul* their councils. I see your *secret integrity*, and the uprightness of your hearts towards

wards me, while the carnal and censorious world condemn you as hypocrites. Your *secret* prayers, fasts, and tears, which the world knoweth not of, I observe them, and record them. Your *secret* care to please me, your *secret* pains with your own hearts, your *secret* self-searchings and self-denial; I see them all, and your Father which seeth in secret, shall reward them openly.

WISDOM.

My wisdom shall be your counsellor. If any want wisdom, let him ask of me, and it shall be given him. I will be your deliverer. When you are in darkness I will be a light to you; I will make your way plain before you. You *are but short-sighted*, but I will be eyes to you. I will watch over you to bring upon you *all the good* I have promised, and to *keep off all the evil* you fear, or to turn it into good. You shall have your *food* in its season, and your *physic* in its season; mercies, afflictions, all suitable, and in their season.

AT DESTRUCTION THOU SHALT LAUGH.

I will *outwit* your enemies, and make their oracles to speak but folly. The old *serpent*
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shall not deceive you; I will acquaint you with his *devices*. The deceitful hearts you fear, shall not undo you, I will *discover* their wiles.

I know how to deliver the godly out of temptation, and to reserve the unjust to the day of judgment, to be punished. Trust in me with all your hearts, and lean not to your own understanding. I am God that performeth all things for you. *I will forfeit the reputation of my wisdom, if I make you not to acknowledge* when you see the end of the Lord, (though at present you wonder, and *reach not the meaning of my proceedings*) that all my words are performed *in number, and in time, and in order*; if I *find you not cry out*, manifold are thy works, O Lord, in wisdom *hast* thou made them all.

JUSTICE.

My justice shall be your revenger and rewarder. Fear not to approach; fury is not in me. My justice is not only appeased, but engaged for you. I am satisfied in the sacrifice of my beloved. That justice that was a flaming sword drawn against you; doth now *greatly befriend* you; and that which was an amazing, confounding

confounding terror, shall now become your relief and consolation. Under *all your oppressions*, here shall your refuge be. Let me know your grievances, my *justice shall right your wrongs*, and *reward your services*. You may *conclude* upon your pardons, *conclude* upon your crowns, *conclude* upon reparation for all your injuries, and all from the sweet consideration of my justice, the thought of which, to *others*, is as the horror of the shadow of death. If you sin, despair not; remember, I am just, to forgive you. If you are at *any pains or cost* for me, do not count it lost; for I am not unrighteous to forget you. I am the righteous judge, that have laid up for you, and will set on you the crown of righteousness. Are you reviled, persecuted, defamed? forget not that I am righteous, to render tribulation to them that trouble you; and to you that are troubled, rest with me. Though all your services and sufferings deserve not the least good at my hands, yet as I have *freely passed* my promise to reward them, so I will as *justly keep it*.

OMNIPRESENCE.

Mine omnipresence shall be company for you; shall be your social friend, and familiar acquaintance.

ance. Surely I will be with you to bless you, No bolts, nor bars, nor bonds, nor banishment, shall remove you from my presence; and the influence of heaven is always with you. In your darkest nights, in your deepest dangers, I am at hand with you, a very present help in the time of trouble. I am not a God *afar off*, or *asleep*, or in a *journey*, when you need my counsel, mine ear, or mine aid; I am always nigh unto them that fear me. *No prison* shall hinder the presence of my grace from you; my presence shall perfume the noisome wards, and lighten the darkest dungeon where you can be thrust.

HOLINESS.

My holiness shall be a fountain of grace to you. I am the God of hope, the God of love, the God of patience, the author and finisher of faith, the God of all grace, and I will give grace to you. My design is to make you *partakers of my holiness*; I will be a constant spring of spiritual life to you. The water that I shall give you, shall be in you as a well of water springing up into everlasting life. The seed of life that I shall put into you, shall be so fed, and cherished, and maintain-
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ed by my power, *that it shall be immortal.*
 The unction that you shall receive from the
 holy one, shall abide in you, and teach you
 all things (necessary for you) and as it hath
 taught you, you shall abide in him. Keep but
 the channels open, and ply the means which I
 have prescribed, and you shall flourish in the
 courts of your GOD : yea, I will satisfy your
 souls in drought, and make fat your bones,
 and you shall be like a watered garden. Lo,
 I will be as the dew unto you, and you shall
 grow as the lilly, and cast forth your roots as
 Lebanon ; and your branches shall spread, and
 your beauty be as the olive tree. You shall
 still bring forth fruit in old age ; you shall be
 fat and flourishing.

My sovereignty shall be commanded by you.
 You shall be my favourites, men of power,
 to prevail with me ; all *mine attributes* shall
 be at the *command of your prayers.*

ALL-SUFFICIENCY.

In sum, *mine all-sufficiency* shall be the *lot of*
your inheritance. My fulness is your treasure :
 my house is your home. You may come as
 freely to my store, as *to your own cupboard* ;
 you may have your hand as *freely in my trea-*
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sure as in your own purses. You cannot ask too much, you cannot look for too much from me; I will give you, or be myself to you instead of all comforts. You shall have children, or I will be better to you than ten children; you shall have riches, or I will be more to you than all riches. You shall have friends, if best for you, or else I will be your comforter in your solitude, your counsellor in your distress. If you leave father or mother, or house or lands for my sake, you shall have an hundred fold in me. Even in this time when your enemies shall remove your comforts, it shall be but as the stopping the cistern from running, and opening the fountain; or putting out the candles, and letting in the sun. The swelling the waters shall raise higher the ark of your comfort. I will be the staff of bread to you; your life and the strength of your days. I will be the house and home to you, you shall dwell with me, yea, dwell in me, and I in you. I will stand and fall with you. I will repair your losses, and relieve your needs. Can you burn out the lamp of heaven, or lave out the boundless ocean with your hands? Why, the sun shall be dark, and the sea be dry, before the father of lights, the fountain of mercies, shall be exhausted. Behold, though the world hath been

been

been spending upon the stock of my mercy, ever since I created man upon earth, yet it runs with full stream still. My sun doth diffuse its rays, and disburse its light, and yet shines as bright as ever; much more can I dispence of my goodness, and fill my creatures brim full and running over, and yet have never the less in myself; and *till this all-sufficiency be spent you shall never be undone.* I am the God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, and whatever I was to them I will be to you. Are you in want? you know *whether to go; I am ever at home,* you shall not go away empty from my door. Never *distract* yourself with cares and fears, but make known your requests by prayer and supplication unto me. I will help *when all do fail.* When friends fail, and *heart fails,* when your eye-strings crack, and your heart-strings break; when your acquaintance leave you, your souls leave you, my *bosom shall be open to you.* I will lock up your dust, I will receive your souls

INFINITY.

And in mine *infiniteness* shall be *the extent of your inheritance.* Can you by searching find out God? Can you find out the Almighty to perfection? It is as high as heaven, what can

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you do? Deeper than hell, what can you know? this *height incomprehensible, this deep unfathomable* shall be all yours, for ever yours. I am your inheritance, which *no line* can measure, *no arithmetic* can value, *no surveyor* can describe. Lift up now your eyes to the ancient mountains, and to the utmost bounds of the everlasting hills, all that you *can see is yours*; but your short sight cannot ken the moiety of what I give you; and when you see and know most, you are *no less than infinitely short* of the discovery of your own riches.

Yea further, I will be yours in all my *personal relations*. I am the *everlasting* Father, and I will be a father to you; I take you for my sons and daughters. Behold, I receive you not as servants, but as sons, to abide in my house for ever; whatever *love or care* children may look for from *their father*, that may you expect from me; and *so much more* as I am *wiser, and greater, and better* than any earthly parents. If earthly fathers will give good things to their children, much more will I give to you. If such *cannot forget* their children, much less will I forget you. What *would my children have?* Your Father's *heart*, and your Father's *house*; your Father's *care*,
and

and your Father's *ear*; your Father's *bread*, and your Father's *rod*, these shall be all yours.

You shall have my *fatherly affection*. My heart I *share among you*, my tenderest loves I bestow upon you. My fatherly compassion, as a father pitieth his children, so will I pity you. I will consider your frailty, and not be extreme to mark what is done amiss by you, but cover all with the mantle of my excusing love. My *fatherly instruction*, I will cause you to hear the sweet voice behind you, saying, This is the way. I will tender your weakness, and inculcate mine admonitions *line upon line*, and feed you with milk, when you cannot digest stronger meat; I will instruct you and guide you with mine eye.

My *fatherly protection*. In my fear is strong confidence, and my children shall have a place of refuge. My name shall be your strong tower, to which you may at all times fly and be safe. To your strong hold, ye prisoners of hope. I am an *open refuge*, a near and inviolable refuge for you.

My *fatherly provision*. Be not *afraid of want*; in your Father's house there is bread enough. I will care for your bodies. Care not for what you shall eat, drink, or put on. Let it suffice you, that your heavenly Father *knoweth that* you have need of all these things.

I will provide for your souls, *meat* for them and *mansions* for them, and *portions* for them.

Behold, I have spread the table of my gospel for you, with privileges and comforts that no man taketh from you. I have set before you the bread of life, and the tree of life, and the water of life, eat, O friends, drink abundantly, O beloved. But all this is but a taste of what I have prepared. You must have but smiles and hints now, and be contented with glimpses and glances here; but you shall be shortly taken up into your Father's bosom, and live for ever in the fullest views of his glory.

My fatherly probation. I will chasten you because I love you, that you may not be condemned with the world.

INTEREST IN THE SON OF GOD.

My son I give unto you in a marriage covenant for ever. I make him over to you as wisdom, for your illumination; righteousness, for your justification; sanctification, for the curing of your corruptions; redemption, for your deliverance from your enemies. I bestow him upon you, with all *his fulness*, all his merits, and all his graces. He shall be
yours

yours in all his offices. I have anointed him for a prophet; are you ignorant; he shall teach you; he shall be eye-salve to you. I have sent him to preach the gospel to the poor, and recovering of sight to the blind; to set at liberty them that are bruised. I have established him by oaths as a priest for ever. If any sin, he shall be your advocate. He shall expiate your guilt, and make the atonement. Have you any sacrifice, any service to offer? *bring it unto him,* and you shall receive an answer of peace.

Present your petitions by his hand, him will I accept. Having such an high-priest over the house of God, you may come and welcome; come with boldness. Him have I set up as a king upon my holy hill of Sion. He shall rule you, he shall defend you, he is the king of righteousness, king of peace, and such a king shall he be to you. I will set up his standard for you; I will set up his throne in you. He shall reign in righteousness, and rule in judgment; and he shall be a hiding-place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest, and the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. He shall hear your causes, judge your enemies, and reign till he hath put all under *his* feet. Yea, and under *your* feet;

feet; for they shall be as ashes under you, and you shall tread them, saith the Lord of hosts. Yea, *I will undo them that afflict you*, and all they that despised you shall bow themselves down at the soles of your feet. And you shall go forth, and behold the carcasses of the men that have trespassed against me; for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring to all flesh.

SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.

My spirit do I give unto you for your counsellor, and your comforter. He shall be a constant inmate with you, and shall dwell in you, and abide with you for ever.

I consecrate you as *temples to his holiness*. He shall be your guide; he shall lead you into all truth. He shall be your advocate to indite your prayers, and make intercession for you, and shall fill your mouths with the arguments that *he knows will prevail with me*. He shall be oil to your wheels, and strength to your ancles, wine to your hearts, marrow to your bones, and wind to your sails; he shall witness your adoption; he shall seal you up to the day of redemption, and be to
you

you the earnest of your inheritance, until the redemption of the purchased possession; and as I give you myself, so much more all things with myself, earth and heaven, life and death, things present and things to come.

Things present are yours; lo, I give you Caleb's blessing, the upper springs, and the nether springs. I will bless you with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

To you *pertaineth the adoption*, and the glory, and the covenant, and the service of God, and the promises. To you will I give the white stone, and the new name, access into my presence, the acceptation of your persons, the audience of your prayers.

Peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you. I will undertake for your perseverance, and keep you to the end, and then will crown mine own gift with eternal life. I have made you heirs of God, and co-heirs with your Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall inherit all things.

I have granted you mine *angels for your guardians*. The *courtiers* of heaven shall attend upon you; they shall be all ministering spirits for your good. Behold I have given them charge over you, *upon their fidelity* to look after you, and, as the tender nurses, to
bear

bear you in their arms, and to keep you from coming to any hurt. These shall be as the careful shepherds, to watch over my flock by night, and to encamp round about my fold.

My ministers I give for your guides. Paul, Apollos, Cephas, all are yours. I am always with them, and they shall be always with you to the end of the world. You shall have pastors after mine own heart, and this shall be my covenant with you, that my spirit which is upon you, and my words which I have put into your mouth shall not depart out of your mouth, nor the mouth of your seed, nor of your seed's seed, saith the Lord, from henceforth and for ever.

In short, all my officers shall be for the profiting and perfecting of you. All mine ordinances shall be for edifying and saving you. The very severities of my house, admonitions, censures, &c. and *the whole discipline of my family* shall be for preventing of your infection, curing of corruption, procuring your salvation.

My word have I ordained for converting your soul, enlightening your eyes, *rejoicing* your hearts, *cautioning* you of dangers, *cleansing* your defilements, and *conforming* you to mine image. To you I commit the oracles of God.

Here

Here you shall be *furnished* against temptations; hence you shall be *comforted* under distresses and afflictions: here you shall find my *whole counsel*. This shall instruct you in your way, *correct* you in your wanderings, *direct* you into the truths to be believed, detect to you the errors to be rejected.

My sacraments I give you, as the pledges of my love. You shall *freely* claim them, they are childrens bread. Yea, I have given them as seals, to certify all that I have here promised you; and when these sacred signs are delivered unto you, then know, and remember, and consider in your hearts, that I therein *plight* you my troth, and set to my hand, and do thereby ratify and *confirm every article* of these indentures; and do actually deliver into your *own hands* this glorious charter, with all its immunities and privileges, as *your own for ever*.

And having sowed to you so largely in spiritual blessings, shall you not *much more reap the temporals*? be you not of doubtful mind, all these things shall be added unto you, *my creatures* I grant for your *servants* and *supplies*. Heaven and earth shall *minister* to you. All the *stars in their courses* shall *serve* you, and (if need be) shall *fight* for you. And I will make my covenant for you with the beasts of the

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field,

field, and with the fowls of heaven; and you shall be in league with the stones of the field; and all shall be at peace with you. I will undertake for *all your necessities*; do I feed the fowls, and cloath the grafs, and do you think I will neglect my children? I hear the young ravens when they cry, shall I not much more fulfil the desires of them that fear me? Fear not, you shall be sure to want no good thing; and you would not yourselves desire riches, pleasures, or preferment *to your hurt*. I will give meat to them that fear me: I will be ever mindful of my covenant.

My providences shall co-operate to your good. The cross winds shall blow you the sooner and swifter into your harbour. You shall be preferred, when you seem most debased; and then be *greatest gainers*, when you seem to be *deepest losers*; and most effectually promote your good, when you seem most to deny it.

Things to come are yours, the perfecting of your souls, the redemption of your bodies, the consummation of your blifs. When you have glorified me for a while on earth, and finished the work I have given you to do, you shall be caught up into paradise, and rest from your labours, and your works shall follow you. I will send of my own *life-guard*, to conduct home your departing

departing souls, and receive you among the spirits of just men made perfect; and you shall look back upon Pharaoh and all his host, and see your enemies dead upon the shore; then shall be your redemption from all your afflictions, and all your corruptions. The thorn in the flesh shall be pulled out, and the hour of temptation shall be over, and the tempter for ever out of work.

The sweat shall be wiped off from your brows, and the day of cooling and refreshing shall come, and you shall sit you down for ever under my shadow; for the Lamb that is in the midst of the throne shall feed you, and lead you unto living fountains of waters.

The tears shall be wiped away from your eyes, and there shall be no more sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away, and behold I make all things new. I will change *Marab* into *Naomi*, and the cup of sorrow into the cup of salvation; and the bread and water of affliction into the wine of eternal *consolation*. You shall take down your harps from the willows, and I will turn your *tears* into pearls, and your penitential psalms into songs of deliverance. You shall change your *Ichabods* into *Hosannas*, and your *Ejabs* of sorrow into *Hallelujabs* of joy.

The cross shall be taken off from your backs, and you shall come out of your great tribulations, and wash your robes, and make them white in the blood of the Lamb; and you shall be before the throne of God, and serve him night and day in his temple; and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among you, and you shall hunger no more, and thirst no more, neither shall the sun light upon you, nor any heat.

The load shall be taken off from your consciences. Sins nor doubts shall no more defile you nor distress you. I will make an end of sin, and knock off the fetters of your corruptions, and you shall be a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but holy and without blemish. Thus shall you be brought to the king all glorious, in raiment of needle-work, and clothing of gold; with gladness and rejoicing shall you be brought and enter into the king's palace. So shall the beloved of the Lord dwell safely by him, and you shall stand continually before him, and behold the beauty of the Lord, and hear his wisdom. Then will I *open in you an everlasting* spring of joy, and you shall break forth into singing, and never cease more, nor rest day nor night, saying holy, holy, holy.

Thus

Thus shall the *grand enemy expire* with your *breath*, and the body of death be put off with your dying body, and the day of your death shall be the birth day of your glory.

Have faith in God. Wait but a little, and sorrow shall cease, and sin be no more.

And then a little longer, and death shall be no more; but your last enemy shall be destroyed, and your victory compleated. Yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and you also shall appear with him in glory. This same Jesus which is taken from you into heaven, shall so come as he went up into heaven, and when he cometh, he will receive you to himself, that where he is, there you may be also. Behold his sign, he cometh in the clouds of heaven with power, and great glory; and every eye shall see him, and all the tribes of the earth shall mourn because of him; but you shall lift up your heads, because the day of your redemption draweth nigh. Then shall he sound his trump, and make you to hear his voice in your dust; and shall send his mighty angels to gather you from the four winds of heaven, who shall carry you in the triumphant chariot of the clouds, to meet your Lord; and you shall be prepared for him, and presented to him, as a bride adorned for her husband. And as you have borne

borne the image of the earthly, so shall you bear the image of the heavenly, and you shall be fully conformed both in body and spirit, to your glorious head. Then shall he *confess you before his angels*, and you shall receive your *open absolution before all flesh*, and be owned, approved and applauded in the public audience of the general assembly. And you shall be, with all royal solemnities espoused unto the king of glory, in the presence of all his shining courtiers, to the envy, and gnashing, and terror of your adversaries; so shall your Lord with his own hand, crown you, and set you in thrones, and you shall judge men and angels, and you shall have power over the nations, and you shall set your feet upon the necks of your enemies.

Lo, I have *set the very day for your enstallment*, I have *provided your crowns*, I have *prepared the kingdom*. Wherefore do you doubt, O ye of little faith? these are the true sayings of God. Are you sure that you are now on earth? so surely shall you be shortly with me in heaven. Are you sure that you shall die? so surely you shall rise again in glory; lo, I have said it, and who shall reverse it? You shall see me face to face, and be with me where I am, and behold my glory. For I will be glorified in my saints, and admired in all them that believe; and all
flesh

flesh shall know that I have loved you. For I will make you the *instances of my grace*, in whom the whole world shall see how *unutterably the almighty God can advance the poor worms-meat*, and dust of the ground. And the despisers shall behold, and wonder, and perish; for they shall be witnesses to the riches of my magnificence, and exceeding greatness of my power. They shall go away into everlasting punishment, but you into life eternal.

For no sooner shall *their* doom be past, but the bench shall rise, and the judge shall return with all his glorious train; with sound of trumpet, and shouts incredible, shall he ascend, and shall lead you to your father's house. Then shall the *triumphal arches* lift up their heads, and the everlasting gates stand open, and the heavens shall receive you all, and so shall you be ever with the Lord. And now will I rejoice over you with singing, and rest in my love; and heaven shall *ring with joys* and acclamations, because I have received you safe and sound.

And in that day *you shall know* that I am a rewarder of them that diligently seek me; and that I *did record* your words, and *bottle your tears*, and tell your wanderings, and *keep an account*, even to a cup of cold water, of whatever you said or did for my name. You shall
surely

surely find that *nothing is lost*; but you shall have full measure, pressed down, and running over; thousands of years in paradise, for the *least good thought*; and thousands thousands for the *least good word*; and then the reckoning shall begin again, till all arithmetic be non-plust. For you shall be swallowed up in a blessed eternity, and the doors of heaven shall be shut upon you, and there shall be no more going out. The *glorious choir* of mine holy angels, the *goodly fellowship* of my blessed prophets, the *happy society* of triumphant apostles, the royal hosts of victorious martyrs, these shall be your companions for ever. And you shall come in white robes, with palms in your hands, every one having the harps of God, and golden vials full of odours, and shall cast your crowns before me, and strike in with the multitudes of the heavenly host, glorifying God, and saying, hallelujah, the Lord God omnipotent reigneth: blessing, honour, glory and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

In short, I will make you equal to the angels of God; and you shall be the *everlasting trumpets* of my praise: you shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of my house, and I will make
you

you drink of the rivers of my pleasures. You shall be an eternal excellency, and *if God can die, and eternity run out; then, and not else, shall your joys expire.* For you shall see me, as I am, and know me, as you are known, and shall behold my face in righteousness, and be satisfied with my likeness. And you shall be the vessels of my glory, whose blessed use shall be to receive the overflowings of my goodness, and to have mine *infinite love and glory poured out into you brimful, and running over for evermore.* And blessed is he that hath believed, for there shall be a performance of the things that have been told him. The Lord hath spoken it, ye shall see my face, and my name shall be written in your foreheads; and you shall no more need the sun, nor the moon, for the Lord God shall give you light, and you shall reign for ever and ever. And as I give myself to you for your God, and all things with myself; so I take you for my covenant-people, and you shall be mine in the day when I make up my jewels, saith the Lord of hosts; and I will spare you as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. The Lord shall count, when he writeth up the people; surely they are my children. *I do not only require you to be mine if you would have me to be for you; but I do promise*

to *make you mine*; and to work in you the graces and duties which I require of you, I will circumcise your hearts to love me. I will take out the heart of stone, my laws will *I write within* you. Yet you must know I will be sought unto for these things, and as ever you expect to partake of the mercies, I charge you to lie at the pool, and wait for my spirit, and be diligent in the use of means. I do not treat you according to the rigour of the old terms, I shall *not stand upon satisfaction at your hands*. I have received a ransom, and do only expect your acceptance, I shall not insist upon perfection *. Walk before me, and be upright, and godly sincerity shall be approved by me. Yea, both the faith and obedience that *I require of you*, are mine own gifts.

I require you to accept my son by believing; but I will *give you an hand* to take him, and to submit to, and obey him: but *I must and will guide your hand* to write after him, and cause you to walk in my statutes. I will take you by the arms, and teach you to go; I will order your steps, yea, those things will I accept of you, as the graces and actions of a religious life; which, viewed in the strictness of my justice, and as mixed with sin, would deserve eternal death. Grace! grace! Amen.

THE

* i. e. As the ground of acceptance and the matter of justification.

THE
VOICE OF THE REDEEMED
IN REPLY TO THE
VOICE OF GOD
IN HIS
P R O M I S E S.

*A*MEN, *Hallelujah!* Be it to thy servants according to thy word. But what are we, and what is our father's house, that thou hast brought us hitherto? And now, O Lord God, what shall thy servants say unto thee? for we are silenced with wonder, and must sit down in astonishment, for we cannot utter the least tittle of thy praises: what meaneth the height of this *strange love*? And whence is this unto us, that the Lord of heaven and earth should condescend to enter into covenant with his dust, and take into his bosom the *viperous brood*, that have so often spit their venom in his face? We are not worthy to be as the handmaids, to wash the feet of the servants of our Lord, how much less to be thy sons and heirs, and to be made partakers of

all these blessed liberties and privileges, which thou hast settled upon us? But for thy goodness sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all these great things. Even so father, because so it seemed good in thy sight.

Wherefore thou art great, O God, for there is none like thee, neither is there any God besides, 1 *Sam.* vii. 18. to the end. And what nation on earth is like thy people, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for them great things and terrible? For thou hast confirmed them to thyself, to be a people unto thee for ever, and thou Lord art become their God: wonder, O heavens, and be moved, O earth, at this great thing, *Rev.* xxi. 4. For behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. Be astonished and ravished with wonder, for the infinite breach is made up: the offender is received, and God and man reconciled, and a covenant of peace entered, and heaven and earth are all agreed upon the terms, and have struck their hands, and sealed the indentures. O happy conclusion! O blessed conjunction! Shall the stars dwell with
the

the dust? Or the wide distant poles be brought to mutual embraces and cohabitation? But here the distance of the terms is infinitely greater. Rejoice, O angels, shout, O seraphims. O all ye friends of the bridegroom, prepare an epithalamium, be ready with the marriage song. Lo, here is the wonder of eternity. For JEHOVAH *hath betrothed himself for ever to his hopeless captives, and owns the marriage before all the world, and is become one with us, and we with him.* He hath bequeathed to us the precious things of heaven above, and the precious things of the earth beneath, with the fulness thereof, and hath *kept nothing from us.*

And now, O Lord, thou art God, and thy words be true and thou hast promised this goodness unto thy servants, and hast left us nothing to ask at thy hands, but what thou hast already freely granted. Only the word which thou hast spoken concerning thy servants, establish it for ever, and do as thou hast said, and let thy name be magnified for ever, saying the Lord of hosts, he is the God of Israel. Amen, Hallelujah!

I N D E X.

THE blessings of the covenant are either its glorious liberties from evils, or its royal privileges of goods.

The **LIBERTIES** of the **COVENANT** are,

- I. A general *discharge* from all our sins, — page 3
- II. Our *release* from the house of bondage, — 4
- From the dark and noisom prison of sin—From the strong and stinking jail of the grave—From the dungeon of eternal darkness, — — 6
- III. Our *protection* from all our enemies, — 7
- From the curses of the law—From the power of darkness—From the victory of the world—From the curse of the cross, 9
- The **PRIVILEGES** and honours of the **COVENANT**, 10
- He gives himself to us for our God, — *ibid.*
- To be to us instead of all relations, (viz.) Our friend—Our physician—Our shepherd—Our sovereign—Our husband, — 13
- He maketh over himself to us in all his essential perfections and personal relations, — 14

In all his **ESSENTIAL PERFECTIONS**,

- His eternity as the date of our happiness, page 14
- His immutability as the rock of our rest, — 15
- His omnipotence for our guard, — *ibid*
- His faithfulness for our security, — 16
- His mercies as our store, 17
- His omniscience as our overseer, — 18
- His wisdom as our counselor, — 19
- His justice as our avenger and rewarder, — 20
- His omnipresence as company for us, — 21
- His holiness as a fountain of grace to us, — 22
- His sovereignty to be (as it were) commanded by us, 23
- His all-sufficiency to be the lot of our inheritance, *ibid.*
- His infinitude to be the extent of our inheritance, 25

In all his **PERSONAL RELATIONS**.

GOD the **FATHER** to be a father to us. He promises his fatherly affection—His fatherly compassion—His fatherly instruction—His fatherly protection—His fatherly provision, 26

GOD

I N D E X.

GOD the SON to be a husband to us, a prophet, priest and king, page 28
 GOD the SPIRIT to be counsellor and comforter to us,

30

He giveth all things with *himself*, both present and to come, — 31

THINGS PRESENT OURS,

The *upper springs*, or blessings spiritual as adoption, access, audience, peace and perseverance, — *ibid.*

The protection of his angels, — *ibid.*

The inspection of his ministers, — 32

The rod of his discipline, *ibid.*

The light of his word, *ibid.*

The pledges of his sacraments, — 33

The *nether springs* or mercies temporal, — *ibid.*

The supply of his creatures, *ibid.*

The co-operation of his providences, — 34

THINGS TO COME OURS,

At death in glorification *begin*, — 34

The convoy of angels, *ibid.*

Redemption from all afflictions and corruptions,

The thorn taken out of the flesh, — 35

The sweat wiped off from our brows, — *ibid.*

The tears wiped away from our eyes, page 35

The cross taken off from our backs, — 36

The load taken off from our consciences, — *ibid.*

The soul's admission into the presence-chamber and vision of God, — *ibid.*

At the resurrection,

In glorification *consummate*—
 Redemption compleat, 37

The return of the redeemer, *ibid.*

The raising of the body, *ibid.*

Full conformity both in soul and body to our glorified Saviour, — 38

Public approbation and absolution, — *ibid.*

Solemn espousals to Christ, *ibid.*

The coronation and enthronement of the saints, *ibid.*

Their sitting in judgment upon the world of devils and wicked men, *ibid.*

Our triumphant ascension into heaven — 39

Blessed eternity, — 40

Glorious company, *ibid.*

GOD taketh us for and maketh us his covenant people, and engageth to work all in us, and bestow all blessings upon us for time and eternity, — 42

The voice of the redeemed in admiration and devotion, — 43

1 2 3 4 5

On the 10th of March 1863
I received from you a letter
of the 2nd inst. in relation
to the matter of the
land of the
State of New York
and in reply to inform you
that the same has been
forwarded to the
proper authorities for their
consideration.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. B. Thompson
Secretary of the
Board of Regents
of the University of the
State of New York
In answer to your letter
of the 2nd inst. in relation
to the matter of the
land of the
State of New York
and in reply to inform you
that the same has been
forwarded to the
proper authorities for their
consideration.

9 FEB 63

The above is a true and
correct copy of the
letter of the 2nd inst.
in relation to the
matter of the
land of the
State of New York
and in reply to inform you
that the same has been
forwarded to the
proper authorities for their
consideration.

8

